GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3826
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2000
NEW VIRUSES
T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that eleven new viruses have been discovered;

(b) if so, whether sixteen million of the twenty million communicable deaths per year were taking place due to infectious disease;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (d) : The discovery of new viruses is an ongoing process. All viruses need not cause disease. The communicable diseases, which are found in India may be caused either by bacteria or viruses.

It is true that India has significant prevalence in certain communicable diseases like Tuberculosis, Malaria, Leprosy, HIV- AIDS etc. Government has taken many steps to control the spread of communicable diseases. These inter-alia include launching of a National Disease Surveillance Programme which has been initiated as a pilot project in 45 districts of the country and is expected to give early warning signals for detection of disease outbreak so as to initiate timely control measures. In addition, focussed disease control programmes for the control of T.B., Malaria, Leprosy, Blindness and HIV/AIDS have been launched on a national scale with the assistance of the World Bank.